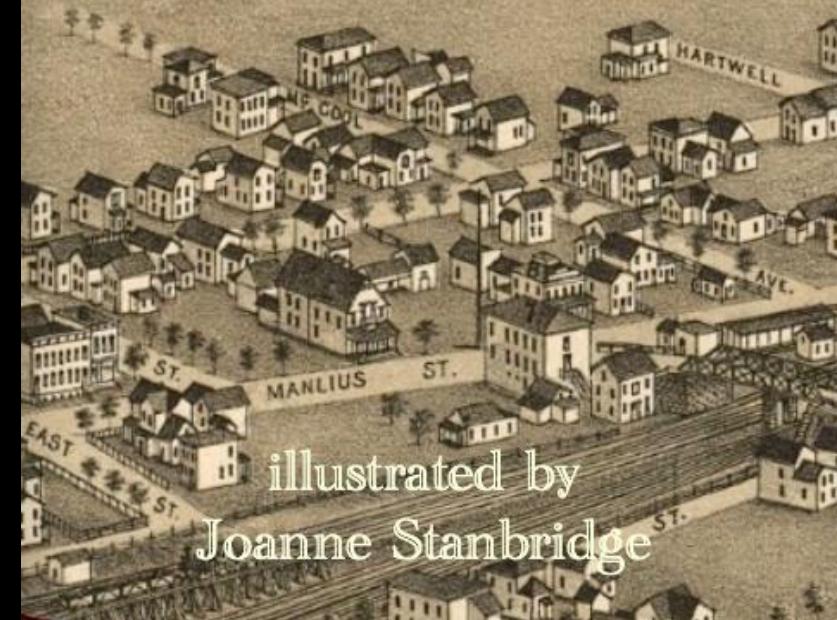
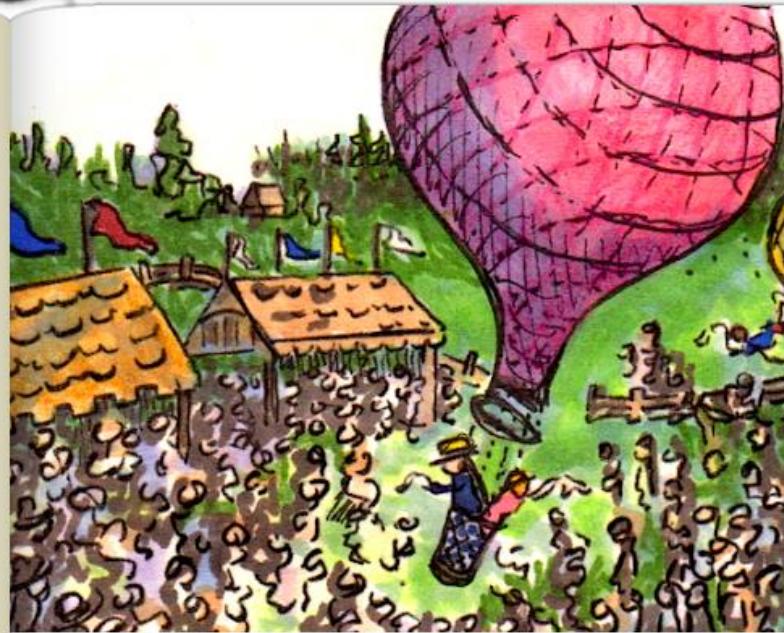


Lady Carlotta  
and the Devil's  
Punchbowl





September 26, 1888

SYRACUSE, N.Y. - Carlotta's daughter, Elizabeth Aerial, aged 7 years, pleaded to make the ascension, and her parents concluded to let her go.

Little Bessie and her mother raced against Professor Leon Dare, a gymnast. When the signal was given, the anchors were cast off and both balloons soared straight up into the clear sky.

From the moment Professor Dare left the earth he began performing evolutions on the bar of his trapeze, holding on by one hand.

Hanging by his knee, he waved to the gaping crowd with a handkerchief.

Mme Carlotta and her brave little girl extended salutations as earnest, but not quite so aerobatic, to the rapidly disappearing crowd of 35,000 spectators.

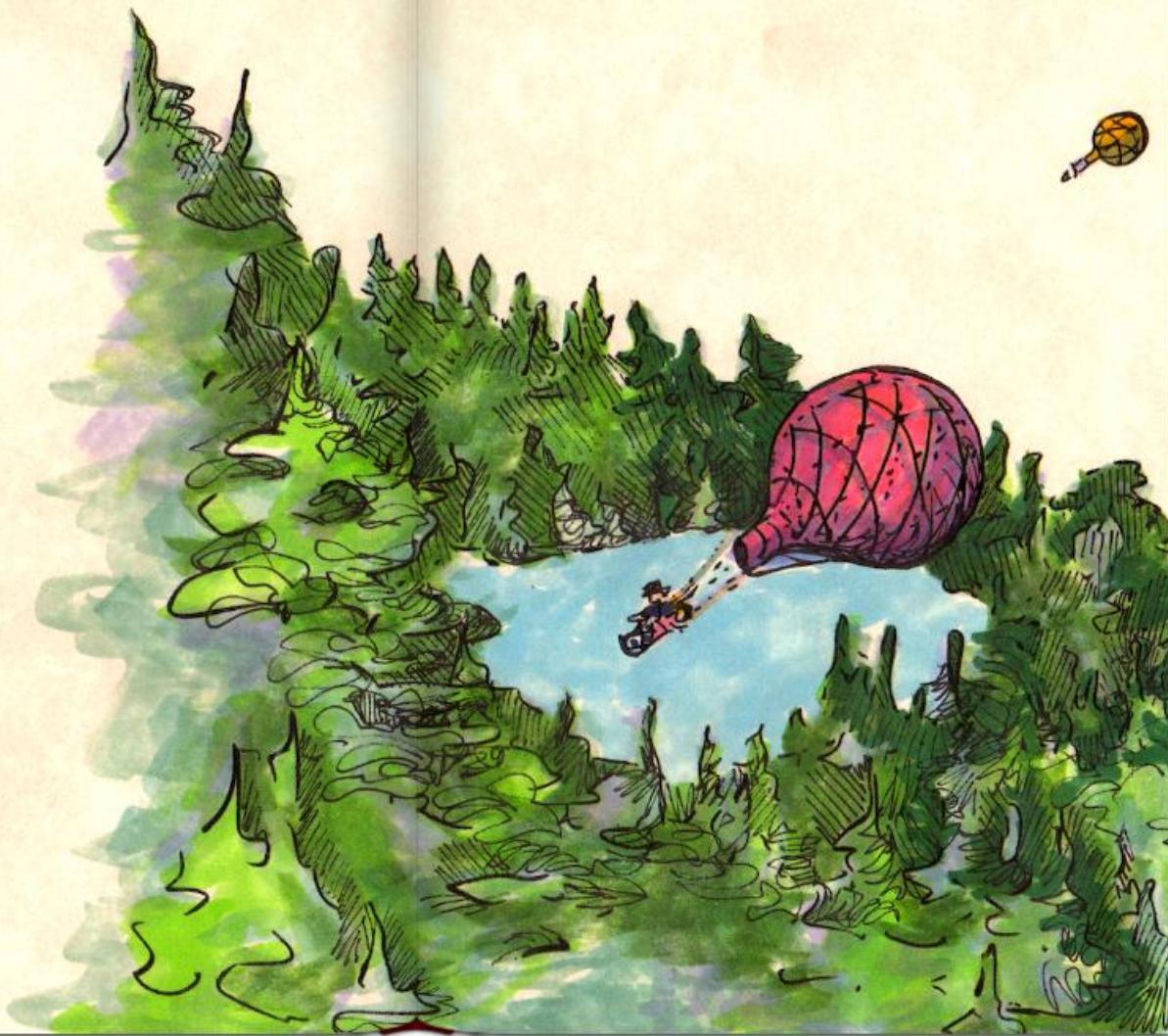


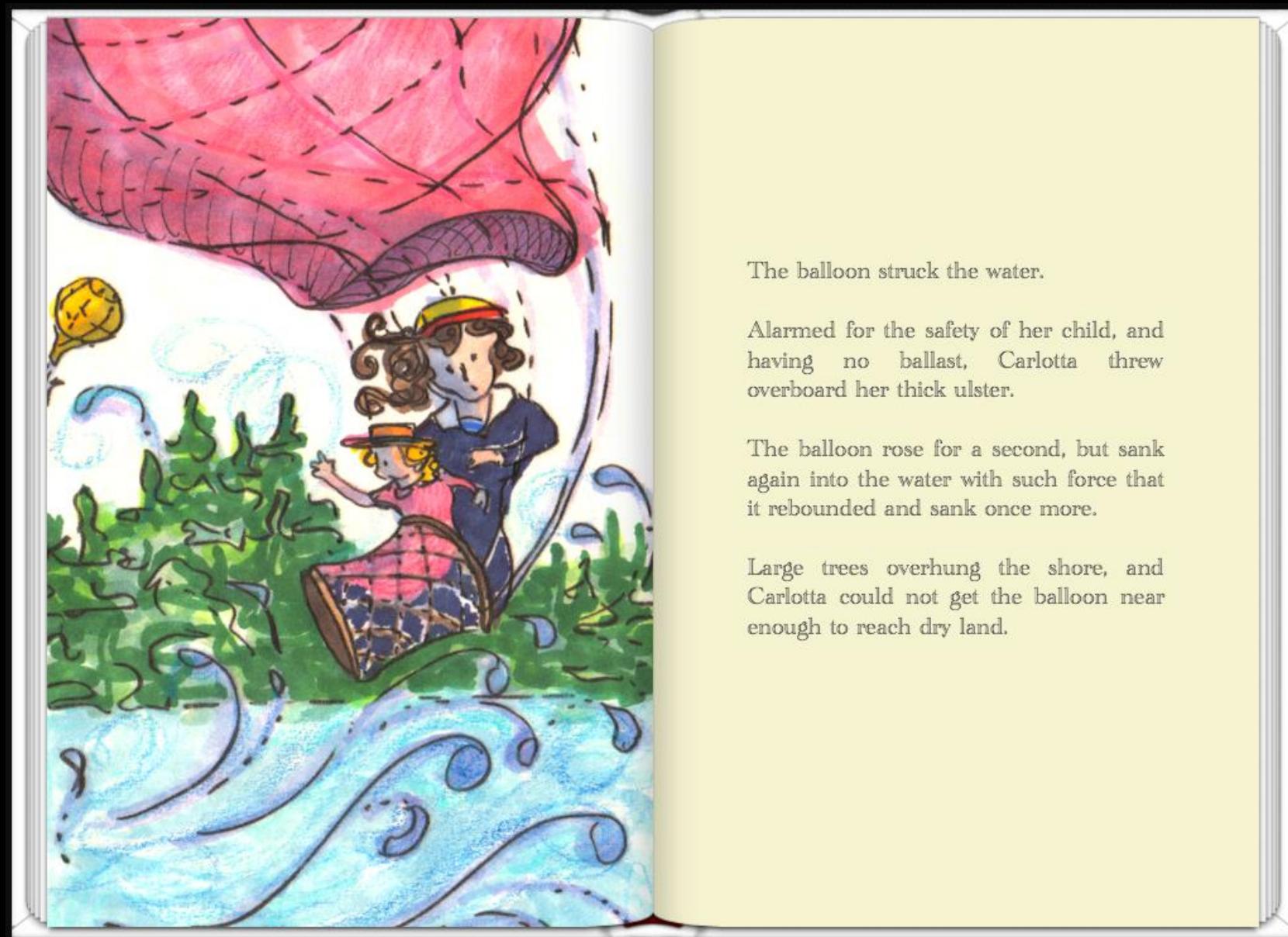
The balloons were carried due east for about half an hour.

Professor Dare had attained a lead of 1/4 mile or so when suddenly a strong wind struck Mme Carlotta's balloon.

Without warning, she and her little daughter found themselves sucked into a deep ravine.

Below lay the small, steep-sided lake known locally as "The Devil's Punchbowl."





The balloon struck the water.

Alarmed for the safety of her child, and having no ballast, Carlotta threw overboard her thick ulster.

The balloon rose for a second, but sank again into the water with such force that it rebounded and sank once more.

Large trees overhung the shore, and Carlotta could not get the balloon near enough to reach dry land.

Carlotta and her little girl clung to the balloon netting for nearly an hour. When a tree limb came close, Carlotta caught hold of it. At last, help arrived in the form of two passers-by, who steered a small boat near enough to effect a rescue.



Elizabeth Aerial never went up in a balloon again.

#### SOURCES

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This sequence was  
part of a longer piece  
submitted to  
The Sketchbook Project 2011  
on the theme  
"In Flight."  
The original is in  
The Brooklyn Art Library  
in New York City  
and can be viewed in its entirety  
on their website  
[www.sketchbookproject.com/brooklynartlibrary](http://www.sketchbookproject.com/brooklynartlibrary)

The illustrations were done  
with Prismacolour pens on paper.

October 2010

Cover: (Detail) Panoramic Map of East Syracuse, New York, by L. R.  
Burleigh, 1885, from Panoramic Maps 1847-1921 [online database],  
American Memory project, Library of Congress.

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